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BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1957

TOWN HALL,
LYMINGTON.
MAY, 1958.

**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON**

I have the honour of submitting my Annual Report for the year 1957, and much regret that it is the last one I shall be presenting after sixteen years in the service of the Council, which I have much enjoyed. The fact that my work has been so pleasant is due to the kindness and encouragement I have received from the members of the Council and the officials I have come in contact with.

Regarding vital statistics. 367 residents died during the year as against 404 in 1956. Of the 367 residents who died, 129 were in the age group 70 to 80 years, 99 between 80 and 90 years, and 15 were over 90 years.

The death rate of 14.85 per 1,000 estimated population of 24,700 when multiplied by the comparability factor becomes 10.74 per 1,000 as against 11.5 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 5; all of these occurred during the first four weeks of life.

There were no deaths due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, or to other forms of Tuberculosis.

Of the 63 deaths due to malignant disease 13 were caused by cancer of the lung or bronchus; of these deaths 3 were female and 10 males, all being over 54 years of age.

Deaths caused by accident numbered 16; in 4 of these cases a motor vehicle was involved.

The birth rate of 12.3 per 1,000 of the population becomes 13.5 when multiplied by the comparability factor there being 10 still births and 314 live births.

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948
National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951**

Six cases were investigated where persons were reported as being in need of care and attention which they were unable to provide for themselves and were not receiving from other people. Formal action had to be taken in two cases where Justice's Orders had to be obtained, two others were moved voluntarily, another is being looked after by a suitable organisation and no action was required in the remaining case.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Lymington Borough is a district of 13,730 acres, excluding 1,572 acres of mudland. It is ideally situated having the New Forest on its northern border, the sea on the south, and the large shopping centres of Bournemouth and Southampton within easy reach. The area is largely agricultural with three main shopping and residential districts, namely, Lymington on the East, New Milton on the West, and Milford-on-Sea on the South. Two other residential areas are Hordle on the north side of the Borough, and Pennington adjoining Lymington Town.

Residential development throughout the whole of the district is proceeding rapidly, and there is a noticeable influx of light industries, the latter evidently being attracted to the district by the possibility of obtaining labour more easily than in the industrial areas. The degree of development and popularity of the area is indicated by there having been nearly 900 dwellinghouses erected during the last three years by private enterprise, and in the same period 88 Council houses were built.

The number of inhabited houses in the Borough is made up of 8,215 separate dwellings, 394 dwellings attached to business premises, and 217 farm houses and farm cottages. The figures given for separate dwellings include the buildings on Naish Farm Estate which to some extent are used in the summer season only.

DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	13,730
Population	24,700
Number of inhabited houses	8,826
Rateable value	£441,167
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£1,600

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M	F	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	12.3
Live Births	314	155	159	Comparative figure	13.65
Legitimate	294	147	147	England and Wales	16.1
Illegitimate	20	8	12	Rate per 1,000 (live & still births) ...	31.8
Still Births	10	7	3	England and Wales	22.4
Legitimate	10	7	3	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	14.85
Illegitimate	—	—	—	Comparative figure	10.74
Deaths	367	180	187	England and Wales	11.5
Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—				Deaths	
Puerperal Sepsis				Nil	
Other Puerperal causes				Nil	
Death rate of infants under one year of age:—					
All infants per 1,000 live births				15.9	
England and Wales				23.0	
Infants under 4 weeks				15.9	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...				17.1	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				Nil	
Deaths from Gastro Enteritis (under 2 years of age) ...				Nil	
The chief causes of death were:—					
Malignant Disease				Pneumonia	12
of Lung & Bronchus 13				Bronchitis	8
Other Malignant				Influenza	3
Diseases ... 50				Vascular Lesions of	
Coronary Disease				Nervous System 61	
(Angina) ... 73				Suicide	3
Heart Disease ... 60				Motor Vehicle	
Other Circulatory				Accidents 4	
Diseases ... 20				All other accidents ...	12

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) Public Health Officers:—

One Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

One Senior Public Health Inspector

Two Additional Public Health Inspectors

A Rodent Officer/Operator is employed by the Council acting under the supervision of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

(2) General Health Service:—

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Examinations made at the Public Health Laboratory and chemical analysis by a public analyst.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—Provided by the Hampshire County Council as the Local Health Authority. Ambulances stationed at Lymington and New Milton. Infectious cases—ambulance headquarters at Lymington.

(c) **Child Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics** are provided by the County Authority and are administered by the Health Department of that Authority. In this Borough the following are the facilities provided:—

	Afternoons
Ante-Natal Clinic: Hillcroft, New Street, Lymington.	2nd & 4th Wednesday
Child Welfare Centres:	
Hillcroft, New Street, Lymington	Every Friday
Women's Institute, Pennington	2nd & 4th Tuesday
Women's Institute, Hordle	3rd Thursday
Church Hall, Milford-on-Sea	4th Thursday
Baptist Church Hall, Ashley, New Milton	3rd Monday
British Legion Hall, New Milton	2nd & 4th Wednesday
Methodist Church Hall, Barton	2nd & 4th Monday

(d) **Protective Treatment against Diphtheria.**—All children can receive free protective treatment by their own doctor, or at Child Welfare Centres. Treatment at the Schools is given by Medical Officers of the County Council.

(e) **Protective Treatment against Poliomyelitis.** — This scheme is administered by the County Council through the County Medical Officer. Record cards are kept by the Council's Health Department who assist in the administration. Vaccine has been stored at, and issued from, the Milford Hospital and I wish to express my thanks for this co-operation.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

A total of 236 children between the ages of 1 and 15 years received the primary immunisation treatment and a further 58 children received booster injections.

Analysis of Treatment Given

Age Group	Diphtheria immunisation alone	Combined Diphtheria Whooping Cough immunisation	Triple Diphtheria Whooping Cough Tetanus immunisation	Boosting doses
Under 1 yr	—	9	120	—
1—4 yrs.	3	28	44	1
5—14 yrs.	26	2	4	57
Total	29	39	168	58

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

From returns received the number of vaccinations carried out in the Borough were:—

Under 1 year old	231	Revaccination	—
Between 1 and 5 years	26	„	2
Between 5 and 14 years	13	„	39
Over 14 years	24	„	120

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The diseases notified during the year were:—

	1956	1957
Measles	43	68
Whooping Cough	21	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1
Poliomyelitis	—	1
Scarlet Fever	6	4
Pneumonia	7	9
Erysipelas	3	3
Dysentery	6	2
Food Poisoning	—	3

TUBERCULOSIS

18 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, 13 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary, including 6 cases transferred here from other districts.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

The chief commercial use of the river is by the British Railways in their Ferry Service to and from the Isle of Wight; one business house uses the river for conveying their merchandise from the Isle of Wight to Lymington. Other than the above the primary use of the river is for yachting and boat building. The details of shipping entering the port other than the ferry service is as follows:

	Motor	Sailing
Coastwise vessels entering Port .	65	—
Vessels from Foreign parts ...	—	—

The mooring station for suspected ships in the case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and Typhus is between Oxey Lake and Spit Buoy. Other infectious diseases are considered as exempt from detention. No infectious cases were reported during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

To the Medical Officer of Health

As required I wish to submit my report for the year 1957. As this is the last time I shall have the privilege of co-operating with you in the preparation of the Annual Report may I express to you my personal thanks for the help and support you have always given me since your appointment as Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Lymington, and at the same time say how sorry we are in the Health Department that you feel obliged to relinquish your office.

I wish also to thank Mr. Jenkins and others in the Health Department for their continued valued assistance.

(Signed) **N. Raw,**

Senior Public Health Inspector.

Water Supply:—

Water to the Borough is supplied from two undertakings, Lymington Town being served by the Corporation owned works at Ampress and the remainder of the district by the West Hampshire Water Company. Mains water is generally available throughout the whole of the district, there being only a few outlying dwellings dependent upon Wells for their source of supply.

LYMINGTON TOWN'S SUPPLY

This undertaking is under the supervision of the Borough Engineer. The source of the supply is from two bore holes, one of 16" dia. and 376ft. deep and the other 18" dia. and 378ft. deep. The output during the year was 132,059,000 gallons, an increase of 13,775,000 gallons on the previous year. Approximately 6,000,000 gallons were supplied to the West Hampshire Water Company.

A new Diesel driven air compressor set has been installed capable of lifting 30,000 gallons of water per hour.

All dwellings in the Lymington area are connected to the mains water supply.

Extensions to the water mains during the year were:—

3" diameter ... 400 yards in Grove Gardens area; and

3" diameter ... 250 yards in Lower Buckland area.

New tappings totalled 53.

WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY serving
New Milton, Milford-on-Sea, Pennington and Hordle.

During the year the West Hampshire Water Company has laid 1,900 yards of new mains, and new tappings totalled 306.

I have been informed that the water going into supply is analysed bacteriologically daily and all results have produced a result above the Class I standard of the Ministry.

Number of occupied dwellings in the Borough 8,826

Number provided with water from the mains 8,814

Estimated population served by mains water 24,664

Analysis of samples :

EXAMINATION	MAINS SUPPLIES		Wells	RESULTS	
	Lymington	W.H.W. Co.		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological	12	14	3	28	1
Chemical	7*	1	—	8	—

* 4 of these samples were taken following complaints of colour in the water, the analysis being for the presence of iron, copper, and zinc.

The one unsatisfactory bacteriological report was of water from a Well and after attention the following sample was satisfactory.

Chemical analysis of the Lymington Town's supply and of the West Hampshire Water Company's supply is shown below. Samples taken March 1957, and results as parts per million.

Chemical Examinations	Lymington Town's Supply	West Hants Water Co.
Ammonia, free	0.008	0.031
Ammonia, Albuminoid	0.079	0.057
Nitrites	0.042	trace
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen	2.24	2.166
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mns. at 80°F	0.095	0.285
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	0.660	0.790
Chlorine	29.1	19.0
as Sodium Chloride	47.96	31.13
Hardness, temporary	158.0	230.0
Hardness, permanent	56.0	24.0
Hardness, total	214.0	254.0
Total solids	341.0	348.0
pH Value	7.6	7.6
Iron	0.30	Absent
Copper	Absent	Absent
Lead	Absent	Absent
Zinc	Absent	Absent
Free Chlorine	0.06	0.12

Drainage and Sewerage:—

The new sewer to serve the properties in High Street, Milford-on-Sea, was completed during the year and the properties previously draining into the Danestream are now connected to this sewer. Conversions to flush sanitation were carried out where properties were previously provided with earth closets.

New works completed during the year include two pumping stations, one at Milford-on-Sea, and one in Bridge Road, Lymington. A new 9" syphon pipe was provided at Efford to ease flooding at Lymore Lane, etc.

A number of new sewers have been laid by private developers in connection with new housing estates particularly in the Barton-on-Sea and New Milton areas.

The development of the area is raising problems regarding the treatment and disposal of sewage and the Borough Engineer has been instructed to prepare a scheme for the remodelment of the Barton Sewage Works for submission to the Ministry. The present D.W.F. through these works is more than twice the designed capacity of the works. Difficulties exist at other parts of the district including the pumping installations at Lymington, Peters Lane and Ashley which are overloaded and works will very soon have to be undertaken to remedy the situation.

During the year drainage defects at 62 premises were remedied including 15 premises connected to the main sewer, and 12 provided with cesspool drainage systems.

Public Cleansing:—

There is no change in Refuse Collection and disposal which is under the supervision of the Borough Engineer. The collection of

house refuse is once weekly and there are two collections weekly in the main shopping areas. All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at a central site in the Hordle district. Houses in the vicinity of the tip had an infestation of crickets and 20 of these properties were sprayed with an insecticide.

Rivers and Streams:—

Pollution of the Danestream has been alleviated quite considerably now that the properties in the High Street, Milford-on-Sea, are on the main sewer.

The stream at Old Milton was found to be heavily contaminated. Samples taken revealed the presence of faecal coli, but sewer swabs were negative to Salmonella organism. Investigations carried out included the testing of all drainage systems in the vicinity and the main sewer was also subjected to a water test. The occupiers of two properties were instructed to disconnect foul drainage from the watercourse and steps are being taken to connect to the main foul water sewer. Whilst these two properties were the only ones found to be causing trouble, I am inclined to the view that there is pollution from an as yet unknown source.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections made during 1957 :

DESCRIPTION	Inspections	Action reqd.	Remedied	NOTICES	
				In-formal	Statutory
Milk and Dairies	145	8	8	2	—
Dwellings:					
(Housing Act)	596	34	24	6	14
(Public Health Act) ...	461	21	18	9	2
(Rent Act)	25	5	5	—	8
National Assistance Act ...	11	5	4	—	2
Council House Applications ...	105	—	—	—	—
Drainage Visits and Tests ...	557	68	62	21	—
Water Supplies	24	2	2	1	—
Camp Sites/ Moveable Dwellings ...	343	17	14	3	—
Schools	14	—	—	—	—
Factories Act	403	31	23	11	—
Business Premises	22	4	2	1	—
Food & Drugs Act, including Food Hygiene Regulations ...	984	61	129	15	—
Food Inspections	223	—	—	—	—
Shops Act	213	5	2	—	—
Slaughterhouses/Knackers Yards	19	2	2	—	—
Refuse Sites and Insanitary accumulations	6	—	—	—	—
Piggeries	2	—	—	—	—
Disinfections	10	—	—	—	—
Notifiable & other Diseases ...	16	—	—	—	—
House Pests	50	24	24	—	—
Sea Water Baths	12	—	—	—	—
Watercourses	49	4	3	—	2
Miscellaneous	80	1	1	—	—
Total	4370	291	373	69	28
Rats & Mice	2774	414	385	—	—
Petroleum Regulations	114	5	3	1	—
Grand Total ...	7258	709	711	70	28

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Factories in the Borough total 156; 138 Power factories and 18 non-Power. Defects found and results of action taken are as follows :

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Defects Found	Remedied
Non-Power Factories	... 18	66)	31	23
Power Factories	... 138	337)		

Analysis of Defects

	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	2
Inadequate Ventilation ...	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences :—		
(a) insufficient ...	4	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	17	14
Other Offences ...	7	6

Types of Factories Registered.

Builders and Ancillary Works	... 28
Garages	... 26
Dairies	... 6
Boat Builders and Ancillary Works	4
Tailors	... 3
Radio, Cycle and Electrical	... 15
Bakehouses	... 12
Laundries	... 3
Engineering	... 15
Boot Repairs	... 8
Printing	... 4
Upholstery	... 6
Miscellaneous	... 19

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES

Complaints received during the year totalled 104 and of these no action was required in 29 cases. Investigations involved 241 inspections. The nature of the complaints and result of action are shown below :—

Nature of Complaint	Found	Remedied
Housing Defects ...	10	4
Drainage Defects ...	18	16
Fumes ...	3	3
Insanitary Deposits ...	4	4
House Pests ...	24	24
Smoke Nuisances ...	4	4
Miscellaneous ...	12	11

MILK AND DAIRIES ACT AND REGULATIONS

There are 6 registered dairies and 17 registered distributors of milk in the Borough. Five pasteurising establishments operated during the year, one however ceased in September, 1957. One pasteurises under the H.T.S.T. method, the remainder pasteurise by the Holder process. Powers of licensing have been delegated to this authority by the County Council and the plants and premises are subject to inspection by officers of the Public Health Department. Samples of pasteurised milk are taken at least once monthly from each pasteurising establishment and the results are reported to the Milk Division of the Ministry of Food. Samples of Raw Milk are also taken and laboratory examinations of washed bottles are carried out periodically.

The chief defects at the dairies were in respect of Recording Thermometers, a number of them being out of use for some time. There is a considerable delay in the repair of these instruments; however, all dairies had their full complement before the end of the year.

Unsatisfactory reports were again received on samples of washed bottles, two of the dairies being concerned. The usual steps of checking detergents and the efficiency of the bottle washing machines were taken and finally the bottle counts were satisfactory.

Approximately 4,000 gallons of milk are pasteurised daily.

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES

Class of Milk	No. of samples taken	Appropriate Tests	Samples	
			Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	25	Phosphatase	25	—
		Methylene Blue	25	—
T.T. Pasteurised	32	Phosphatase	32	—
		Methylene Blue	32	—
Raw	13	Methylene Blue	13	—

Four samples were taken of Raw Milk for biological tests and the reports were negative there being no evidence of Myco-Tuberculosis after 42 days.

One sample of Raw Milk was taken because of complaints of taste and souring. The analyst was of the opinion that the acidity of the milk was high and this was probably responsible for the complaint.

MEAT, SLAUGHTERHOUSES, FOOD STORES, etc.

There are 2 licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough and 1 licensed Knacker's Yard. Only one slaughterhouse is used and the amount of slaughtering at this place has increased considerably since 1956.

POST MORTEM INSPECTION

Figures for 1956 in brackets

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	109 (35)	17 (11)	55 (36)	2 (4)	761 (261)
Number inspected	109 (35)	17 (11)	55 (36)	2 (4)	761 (261)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	3 (1)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	45 (8)	5 (6)	— (1)	—	19 (18)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	41.3% (23%)	29.4% (55%)	— (2%)	—	28% (7%)
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	— (1)	—	—	10 (11)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	1.8%	— (9%)	—	—	1.3% (4%)

The number of horses slaughtered at the Knackers Yard during the year was 36 and 36 horse carcasses were received during the same period.

The following foods were examined at retail shops and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

Tins of Meat	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	42
" " Soups	...	" " "	1
" " Vegetables	...	" " "	15
" " Milk	...	" " "	31
" " Fish	...	" " "	3
" " Fruit	...	" " "	19
" " Jams	...	" " "	2
Packets of Puddings	...	Stale	17
" " Sweets	...	Out of condition	119lbs.
" " Chicken	...	Decomposition	20lbs.
" " Sausages	...	Sour	12½lbs.
" " Fish (various)	...	Stale etc.	304¾lbs.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955**Food Sampling — Food Premises — Ice Cream**

The following foods obtained in the Borough have been sampled by the Weights and Measures Inspector of the County of Southampton for the year ending 31st March, 1958.

Article	Number Taken	
	Genuine	Unsatisfactory
Butter and Other Fats	3	—
Drugs	2	—
Milk, Channel Islands	69	—
Milk	90	—
Sausage, Meat, and Fish Products	7	1
Spirits	5	—
Other Foods	7	1
	<hr/> 183	<hr/> 2

The 69 Channel Island Milk samples proved to contain an average of 4.77% fat and 9.11% non-fatty solids and the 90 milk samples an average of 4.06% fat and 8.86% non-fatty solids.

Unsatisfactory Samples.—The cases were not serious enough to warrant legal proceedings.

Food premises in the Borough total 345 made up as follows:—

Restaurants, Licensed Premises, Hotels,	
Clubs, etc. ...	131
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers ...	19
Butchers ...	22
Greengrocers ...	22
Grocery and Provisions ...	81
Bakers ...	13
Confectioners ...	44
Miscellaneous ...	13

Number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream:—

Grocers ...	45
Cafes and Confectioners ...	41
Confectioners only ...	39
General Stores ...	17
Fruiterers and Greengrocers ...	4
Others ...	2

Number of registered Dairies ... 6

Number of premises registered for the preparation of Preserved Foods:—

Fried Fish ...	8
Grocers ...	20
Butchers ...	22
Bakery ...	2

Inspection of premises registered under
the Food & Drugs Act ... 102

Inspection of premises registered under
the Milk and Dairies Regulations ... 145

Inspection of other food premises, including visits
under the Food Hygiene Regulations ... 882

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

During the year 60 instances where food premises were found not to comply with the requirements of these regulations was found, this does indicate that premises where food is prepared and handled should be inspected reasonably often.

Including cases outstanding from the year 1956 a total of 129 food premises have complied with the requirements leaving 32 outstanding.

Analysis of items dealt with :—

Wash hand basins provided/renewed	...	...	33
Sinks provided/renewed	...	...	14
Hot water supplies provided	...	...	40
W.C.'s disconnected from food rooms	...	...	1
Provision of/repairs to closets	...	...	2
Rooms redecorated and cleansed	...	...	9
Screening of food	...	...	3
Repair/provision of food containers	...	...	7
Walls, ceilings, floors, etc., repaired	...	...	8
Impervious coverings to tables, etc.	...	...	10
Miscellaneous items	...	...	12

No Ice Cream is manufactured in the Borough. 26 samples of Ice Cream were taken and all were Grade 1 and satisfactory.

SCHOOL MEALS

Approximately 2,220 day pupils attending the schools in the Borough received their mid-day meal at the schools. This figure does not include meals provided at private schools.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are 21 licensed camping sites in the Borough allowing for 1,590 moveable dwellings during the summer season. Nine of these sites comprising 676 moveable dwellings are in use during the summer only, the remainder having some of the dwellings occupied all the year round. One site for 150 caravans licensed in 1957 was not used but is expected to be operating in 1958. Permission was given for one site to be extended to allow for 275 caravans as against 180 previously. Licences for the use of individual caravans during 1957 were issued in 17 instances.

Generally all camping sites have been maintained in a reasonably satisfactory manner and supervision by the managements continues to improve. At one camp site a new sanitary block connected to the main sewer was provided.

The number of caravans on camp sites used for permanent occupation remains approximately the same as in 1956.

Matters requiring attention during the year were dealt with by the site owners.

13
HOUSING

Further progress has been made in respect of the houses included in the survey made under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

During the year 6 houses have been demolished and Closing Orders served on 5 other dwellings. One clearance order of two dwellings has been confirmed by the Minister.

Action under the Housing and Public Health Acts :

1.	Number of dwellings made fit or in which defects were remedied after informal action	19
2.	After formal action	5
3.	Number of dwellings demolished as a result of	
	Formal action ...	5
	Informal action ...	1
4.	Number of houses closed	5
5.	Number of dwelling houses where undertakings have been accepted ...	1
6.	Number of persons displaced	40
7.	Number of families re-housed by the Council	11

Six other properties where unclean conditions, etc., existed were remedied during the year. In the course of inspection 5 houses were found to be verminous, 2 infested with bugs and 3 flea infested. Insecticidal treatment was given in all cases.

105 investigations were made regarding applications for Council houses and reports submitted to the Committee in 86 instances. 44 families living in overcrowded conditions were re-housed by the Council.

During 1957 a further 42 houses were built by the Council and private enterprise completed 287 houses. The total number of houses owned by the Council and in occupation at 31st December, 1957, was 1,240 including the Fairlea Flats.

RENT ACT 1957

At the end of 1957, six applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, and the procedure as laid down by the Act was followed. The present indications are that landlords concerned are prepared to carry out the repairs which were considered to come within the Act on inspection by the Public Health Inspectors of the Council.

LYMINGTON SEA WATER BATHS

The Sea Water Baths are kept under observation during the season and sampling carried out whilst the Swimming Pool is in use. Nine samples were taken during the season and the reports, with one exception, were quite satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL

The following table indicates the work carried out in the Borough under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cult- ural	Business Industrial etc.	Total
1. No. of properties inspected during 1957 as a result of:—					
(a) notification or	—	232	2	19	253
(b) Otherwise	14	321	52	83	470
2. No. of properties found to be infested by rats:					
Major ...	1	—	2	3	6
Minor ...	6	384	18	19	427
3. No. of properties found to be seriously infested by mice ...	—	12	1	3	16
4. No. of infested premises treated by the Local Authority ...	7	396	2	25	430
5. No. of "block" control schemes carried out ...	—	8	—	6	14

The total visits made were 2,787 and 1,422 poison baits were laid. Notification of infestation remains constant, there is only a slight reduction in the number of instances where rats or mice were found and treatments carried out remain approximately as in 1956. Operational work on farms is not undertaken by the Council and in these cases advice is given by the inspecting officer.

The chief poison used is Warfarin about 95% for both rats and mice, other poisons used are Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic and Antu.

Sewers in the area were test baited during 1957 and no takes were recorded.

CONCLUSION

I hope the Council will be able in the near future to deal with the growing difficulty of effective disposal and treatment of sewage which has been aggravated by the increasing number of new buildings in the Borough of late years.

The above report shows that the Borough is a particularly healthy one the comparable death rate being lower than that for England and Wales as a whole.

I cannot finish this report without expressing my thanks to Mr. Raw and Mr. Jenkins for their co-operation, and help during the past year. I have been indebted to these two gentlemen, and to Miss Brown, on many occasions during my term of office for their help, and shall always remember their unfailing kindness and support.

E. CROFT WATTS,
Medical Officer of Health.